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EDITORIAL NOTES

PERSONAL MENTION.

Out of the legislative mess of the last four months or so, a few personalities protrude with more than usual distinctness. Let us take the pleasing ones first. Dr. George E. Tucker, of Riverside, was the representative of the California Public Welfare League, an organization largely made up of laymen who want good medical laws, and spent practically all of his time at Sacramento during the sessions of the late demented legislature. He worked with untiring energy to prevent destructive legislation; he was helped with the wise counsel of Mr. H. T. Morrow, our attorney in Los Angeles and a gentleman who is much interested in the Public Welfare League from the layman's side. They both did everything humanly possible to stop the trend of destructive legislation, but it was a hopeless, heartbreaking task—and a vicious bill, Senate 813, was passed. This "bifurcated" bill, with its provisions for "physician and surgeon" certificate and for "drugless practitioner" certificate is the result of one man's mad desire to have this "bifurcated" legislature pass an "ideal" medical practice act. This person, Assemblyman H. A. Peairs of Los Angeles, Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Medical and Dental Laws, with the little knowledge gained from a slight association with medical matters, attempted to do the one thing that was neither desired nor required. Against argument and reason and backed only by a smattering of knowledge gained from a little and unfinished study of medicine, some experience in teaching school, a little

practice of law and God only knows what else except an exalted ego, he produced the monstrosity which it is hoped may never become a law of this state. It is understood that this person's egotism led him to attempt radical revisions of other important laws but that his fellow members of the Assembly happily became convinced that he was a "Jack of all trades and master of none" and refused their consent.

LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS.

Quite a number of public health bills that did not touch upon the "administrative policy" one way or the other, were passed. Whether they will be signed or not of course remains to be seen. When the thirty-day period is over and things are finally settled, they will be discussed. It may be said, however, that all the bills prepared by the Tuberculosis Commission (they will be found in the report of the commission published in this issue) were passed. Nearly all the bills proposed by the State Board of Health, we understand, were also passed. Later on it will be possible to give some idea of the nature of such of these bills as become laws and what may be expected to result from them.

NEW STATE INSANE ASYLUM.

The legislature, which might well be called the latest experiment in state insane asylums, has adjourned with a record never equaled anywhere at any time. It is conservatively estimated that it will take California at least fifty years to get over the damage done in the last four months. The philanthropic suggestion of Mr. Johnson in his gubernatorial message to the assembled lunatics when they began their banderlog play last January, to the effect that any physician licensed to practice medicine anywhere in the United States ought to be given a license in California without further formality, had its due effect;—some thirty bills amending the medical act or creating new medical laws were introduced; they were nearly all bad; destructive. The prize freak that finally passed, in spite of protests from every school of medicine and from every element of the community, was Senate bill 813. It is a heart-breaking task to discuss it; it will be found printed in full on another page. It is seldom that a supreme court says anything is good; but the Supreme Court of California went out of its way to say that it was a wise provision of the legislature (of 1901) to make the standard of the Association of American Medical Colleges the minimum standard for medical education in this state because it is a flexible standard. This "wise provision" the legislature of 1913 has eliminated! There are some parts of this bill which may seem good to you as you read it; but do not be fooled—it is as full of holes and bugs as an infected sponge. Whether the governor will sign the bill or not, is now the all-important question.